

notable "benefactors. Although Francois Zola died when his work -was only in its first stage, although a little later his original scheme was foolishly cut down, in such wise as to necessitate other subsequent costly undertakings, and although thirty-one years elapsed before the water he had coveted at last entered Aix, the enterprise he planned has always been known popularly as the Zola Canal. Further, after its completion in 1868, the local municipality then in office, to efface in a measure the inconsiderate treatment of his widow and his son by previous municipalities, bestowed the name of Boulevard Francois Zola on a thoroughfare till then called the Boulevard du Chemin-neuf.¹

The expression "inconsiderate treatment" is certainly not too severe a one to be applied to the action of some of the authorities of Aix in their dealings with Zola's widow, who, in her own name and her son's, inherited her husband's interest in the canal scheme. But she had to contend also with others associated with the work. It was virtually a repetition, or rather a variation, of the familiar story of the confiding inventor and the greedy capitalist. In this instance the inventor was dead, and only his heirs remained. He had fully disclosed his scheme, prepared his plans, and others were eager to profit by them. Thus his

widow and
his little boy were gradually regarded as
incumbrances,
nuisances. Why not set them aside ? Why not
rob them ?
Are not the widow and the orphan robbed every
day ? Besides, it is often easy to bamboozle a young and
inexperienced
woman in matters of law. Already at this time
Madame
Zola's parents had come to live with her at
Air; but her
father was aged, and deficient, it would seem, in
business ca-

1 "La Y&iti\$ en Marche," p. 241.